

BIOLOGICAL AND CONFERENCE OPINION**CONSULTATION HISTORY**

On February 6, 1995, Service personnel met with Reclamation personnel at Boulder City, Nevada, to discuss development of a BA for operations and maintenance of the lower Colorado River. This began an informal consultation process. The target was to have a Final BA in November of 1995. In August of 1995 accelerated efforts of the Lower Colorado Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP), and a strategy to unite the section 7 consultation process and the section 10 processes of the ESA into one plan for the entire area, caused a slowing of the informal consultation process. Because of public uncertainty about the MSCP process, Reclamation continued preparation of the BA and published a public review draft in March, 1996, the same month that the two agencies executed a consultation agreement. The agreement set the stage for Reclamation's public review process for both the BA draft and the Biological Opinion (BO). The final BA was completed in August, 1996. The following chronology describes the remainder of the consultation history.

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| September 5, 1996 | Memorandum from Reclamation with 1986 maps and mapping methods and vegetation changes along the lower Colorado River (LCR), Summary of 1996 Southwestern willow flycatcher surveys, Colorado River front work and levee system maps, and disc with BA text. |
| September 6, 1996 | Meeting on BA and BO information needs. |
| September 25, 1996 | Memorandum from Reclamation with title sheet and index for Colorado River front work and levee system, annual operating plan for 1996, and final report on Colorado River Floodway Protection Act, and Colorado River Floodway maps. |
| September 25, 1996 | Meeting on BA and BO information needs. |
| October 4, 1996 | Memorandum from the Arizona Ecological Services Field Office acknowledged receipt of Reclamation's formal consultation and conference request. The memorandum acknowledged that sufficient information was available to initiate formal consultation/conference and documented changes to Reclamation's effect determinations for the flat-tailed horned lizard and bald eagle. The memorandum also requested supplemental information and clarification on several items pertaining to southwestern willow flycatchers and Lake Mead. |
| October 16, 1996 | Meeting on BA and BO information needs, discussion of possible jeopardy and/or adverse modification for three species. Discussion of some potential |

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reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPA).

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| October 18, 1996 | Reclamation presents Service with preliminary survey data on the southwestern willow flycatcher. |
| October 29, 1996 | Memorandum from Reclamation with maps of the 5-mile zone and features like 242 well field. |
| November 4, 1996 | Meeting on BA supplemental information and BO information needs. Discussion of potential RPA parts. |
| November 4, 1996 | Memorandum from Reclamation with: description of determining annual surplus water, references on equalization between Mead and Powell, draft project description, summary table of flycatcher survey data, references on the Goodding willow community and willow inundation, report on revegetation on lower Colorado, Virgin River riparian study and field maps, biological investigation of the lower Virgin River, flycatcher results for lower Virgin River, Environmental report of the Virgin River, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act report for lower Virgin River Water Quality Improvement Program, drawings of 242 well field, drainage channel, sludge area, and flat-tailed horned lizard habitat. |
| November 15, 1996 | Memorandum from Reclamation with two tables, water depths at Lake Mead Delta, and southwestern willow flycatcher coordinates and other information. |
| November 18, 1996 | Memorandum from Reclamation with preliminary bathymetric contour maps, Lake Mead Delta. |
| November 25, 1996 | Meeting on BA and BO development, discussions of possible reasonable and prudent actions. Corrected acreages to match corrected vegetation maps in Technical Memorandum below and memorandum with explanation of bathymetric maps. |
| November 25, 1996 | Memorandum from Reclamation with revised draft project description, complete set of bathymetric maps to replace those of November 18, GIS vegetation maps of the LCR, GIS maps overlaying southwestern willow flycatcher sites on vegetation maps, Technical Memorandum describing vegetation mapping methods, and satellite imagery of the LCR. |
| December 3, 1996 | Meeting on BO development with continuing discussions regarding RPAs. |

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December 17, 1996	Meeting on BO development, with continuing discussions regarding RPAs.
December 18, 1996	Meeting on BO development with LCR Wildlife Refuges personnel and Reclamation regarding possible RPAs.
December 24, 1996	Conference call with Reclamation regarding the BO.
December 30, 1996	Memorandum signed by Regional Directors of the Service and Reclamation mailed to all LCR interested parties regarding timing of the Consultation Agreement.
January 22, 1997	Service sends rough internal draft BO to Reclamation.
February 4, 1997	Reclamation Memorandum to Service on lack of discretion in controlling water levels in Lake Mead. Meeting between Service and Reclamation on rough internal draft BO RPA and Incidental Take Statement.
February 21, 1997	Service sends internal draft BO to Reclamation.
March 4, 1997	Meeting between Service and Reclamation on RPA and Incidental Take Statement.
March 6, 1997	Service sends revised draft RPA and Incidental Take Statement to Reclamation.
April 29, 1997	Memorandum signed by Regional Directors of the Service and Reclamation regarding revisions to timing of the Consultation Agreement.
May 1, 1997	Service sends BO to Reclamation.